

Application No. 10/680,973
Amendment dated October 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An extractor for removing tissue from an animal or human body cavity, said extractor comprising:
 - a body having a leading end, a trailing end, and a lumen between said leading and trailing ends;
 - a mid-longitudinal axis passing through said lumen of said body;
 - a dilator at said leading end of said body being movable between an unexpanded position and an expanded position, said dilator having a single leaf adapted to be rolled at least in part around the mid-longitudinal axis of said extractor; and
 - a guide surface configured to engage an instrument inserted through said lumen, said guide surface being adapted to move at least a portion of said dilator away from the mid-longitudinal axis of said extractor upon engagement with the instrument, said guide surface having a portion overlying a junction between said body and said dilator.
2. (original) The extractor of claim 1, wherein said guide surface overlies at least one of said body and said dilator.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

4. (original) The extractor of claim 1, wherein said dilator includes a shank attached thereto, said shank having at least a portion of said guide surface formed thereon, said guide surface including a surface deviation being adapted to engage the instrument.
5. (original) The extractor of claim 4, wherein said shank is welded to said dilator.
6. (original) The extractor of claim 4, wherein said shank is attached to a portion of said body.

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7. (original) The extractor of claim 4, wherein said shank includes a key-way adapted to engage with a key to roll said leaf at least in part around the mid-longitudinal axis of said extractor.
8. (original) The extractor of claim 1, wherein said dilator includes an interior portion, said guide surface including a surface deviation formed on said interior portion of said dilator.
9. (original) The extractor of claim 1, wherein said leaf is metallic.
10. (original) The extractor of claim 1, wherein said leaf is biased at least in part towards the expanded position.
11. (currently amended) An extractor for removing tissue from an animal or human body cavity, said extractor comprising:
 - a body having a leading end, a trailing end, ~~and a lumen between said leading and trailing ends, and a depth stop;~~
 - a mid-longitudinal axis passing through said lumen of said body;
 - a dilator at said leading end of said body being movable between an unexpanded position and an expanded position;
 - a collar having an opening and being movable relative to said body along the mid-longitudinal axis of said extractor, said body being adapted to pass through said opening in said collar; and
 - a retainer attached to said collar, said retainer being adapted to retain said dilator in the unexpanded position until said depth stop contacts said collar and said body passes through said opening in said collar to move the dilator towards the expanded position.
12. (currently amended) The extractor of claim 11, wherein said depth stop has collar has a shoulder adapted to contact a proximal portion of said collar-cannula.
13. (currently amended) The extractor of claim 12, wherein said body has a length from said depth stop to said dilator, and said collar and said retainer have a combined length along a central longitudinal axis coaxial with said opening of said collar, the length from said depth stop to said dilator being approximately

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~~the same as the combined length of said collar and said retainer has a shoulder proximate said trailing end, said shoulder of said body being adapted to limit insertion of said extractor through a cannula.~~

Claims 14-19 (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A method for removing tissue from an animal or human body cavity, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an extractor having a dilator movable between an unexpanded position and an expanded position, the dilator being made of a material that is biased at least in part toward the expanded position, the extractor having an interior surface with a surface deviation;

inserting the extractor through a cannula and at least in part into the body cavity;

releasing the dilator to move at least in part toward the expanded position;

engaging the surface deviation ~~a portion~~ of the extractor with an instrument to further move the dilator toward the expanded position; and

removing tissue from the body cavity.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of engaging the tissue with the instrument, the step of engaging the portion of the extractor being performed before the step of engaging the tissue.
22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the extractor has a mid-longitudinal axis, the step of engaging including moving the instrument substantially parallel to the mid-longitudinal axis of the extractor to engage the extractor to further move the dilator toward the expanded position.
23. (new) An extractor for removing tissue from an animal or human body cavity, said extractor comprising:
- a body having a leading end, a trailing end, and a lumen between said leading and trailing ends;
 - a mid-longitudinal axis passing through said lumen of said body;

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a dilator at said leading end of said body being movable between an unexpanded position and an expanded position, said dilator having a single leaf adapted to be rolled at least in part around the mid-longitudinal axis of said extractor; and

a guide surface configured to engage an instrument inserted through said lumen, said guide surface being adapted to move at least a portion of said dilator away from the mid-longitudinal axis of said extractor upon engagement with the instrument, said dilator including a shank attached thereto, said shank having at least a portion of said guide surface formed thereon, said guide surface including a surface deviation being adapted to engage the instrument.

24. (new) The extractor of claim 23, wherein said shank is welded to said dilator.
25. (new) The extractor of claim 23, wherein said shank is attached to a portion of said body.
26. (new) The extractor of claim 23, wherein said shank includes a key-way adapted to engage with a key to roll said leaf at least in part around the mid-longitudinal axis of said extractor.
27. (new) The extractor of claim 23, wherein said leaf is meta lic.
28. (new) The extractor of claim 23, wherein said leaf is biased at least in part towards the expanded position.